



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



NOTIFICATION

T0: Louisiana Mayors, Parish Presidents
Louisiana Police Juries
Louisiana Municipal Association
Louisiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Louisiana Board of Architectural Examiners
Louisiana Engineers and Surveyors Board
Fire Prevention Bureaus
Louisiana Commerce and Trade Association
Louisiana Association of General Contractors
Louisiana Builders Association
Louisiana Association of Builders and Contractors
Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board
Building Officials Association of Louisiana
Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives
President of the Louisiana Senate
Chairmen of the House and Senate Commerce Committees
Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Louisiana Firemans Association

From: V. J. Bella
State Fire Marshal

Date: August 23, 2001

Re: STATE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

It has come the attention of the State Fire Marshal's office that some political subdivisions in the State of Louisiana have adopted or begun procedures to adopt the International Building Code "(IBC)" for use in local jurisdictions. Please be advised that adoption of the IBC by any political subdivision at this point in time is definitely premature and contrary to the provisions of established state law.

LA. R. S. 40:1725, et seq., clearly establishes the State Uniform Construction Code for use within the State of Louisiana. The State Uniform Construction Code consists of the following:

1. The **Standard Building Code** of the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc., and

2. The National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association, as they are subsequently amended, are hereby adopted as the State Uniform Construction Code.
La. R. S. 40:1728 (A) (emphasis supplied).

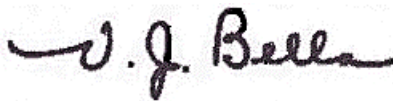
In addition, La. R.S. 40:1728 (B) clearly states that “(i)f **a building code is adopted by any political subdivision of this state, it must adopt the State Uniform Construction Code.**” This office has not declared the IBC to be an equivalent code to the SBC currently adopted and enforced by the State Fire Marshal as part of the Uniform Construction Code. **Therefore, because the State Uniform Construction Code is comprised of, among other codes, the currently adopted Standard Building Code and because the IBC has not been declared by this office to be a code equivalent to the SBC, adoption of the IBC by any political subdivision is or will be contrary to the provisions of state law.**

There is a belief in some circles that the Office of the State Fire Marshal is advocating the adoption of the proposed building code currently being formulated by the National Fire Protection Code (“NFPA”). As stated in the past, this office has not and is not advocating the adoption of any particular code at this time. Rather, this office continues to believe that the best course of action is a “wait and see” approach.

To that end, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and representatives of interested parties, including but not limited to representatives of the Building Official Association of Louisiana (“BOAL”) and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (“AIA”), have met in the past and agreed that a committee of all interested parties should be formed and a study conducted to determine whether the adoption of the either the IBC or the NFPA 5000 building code as a component of the State Uniform Construction Code is in the best interests of the citizens of the State Of Louisiana.

Until that study is complete and a building code is agreed upon as a component of the State Uniform Construction Code, **adoption of the IBC by any political subdivision is or will be contrary to the provisions of state law.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. J. Bella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

V. J. Bella
State Fire Marshal